BENGALURU, SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 13 | Humidity 32% Plenty of sunshine Sensex 81,537 | Nifty 25,048 | Gold 1,57,029 | Silver 3,33,463 | Dollar 91.86 | Euro 107.88 | GBP 124.26

Shocking findings of NIMHANS study: 65% of mental health apps did not mention involvement of any experts in app development, 41% lacked data retention policies, and only 23% guided users towards professional care

IN A TROUBLED STATE OF MIND

48% offer no option for users to delete their data, pointing to serious privacy risks

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Over 65% of mental health apps assessed in a NIMHANS study did not mention any involvement of mental health experts in app development, raising major concerns about safety, credibility, and clinical reliability. Researchers found that 41% lacked data retention policies, and only 23% guided users towards professional care, highlighting the urgent need for strong regulation and quality standards in digital mental healthcare.

The study was published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research MHealth and UHealth. The researchers identified 5,827 apps in total and shortlisted 350 that met the inclusion criteria, English language, free or partially free access, and mental health relevance. Each app was evaluated across 21 parameters, including privacy practices, payment models, developer background, target conditions, expert involvement, and scientific evidence, with overall quality assessed using the Mobile App Rating Scale (MARS).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

> **When mental health professionals are not involved in their design, there is a real risk of oversimplifying complex psychological issues, offering inappropriate or insufficient guidance, or missing warning signs of risk**
>
> —Pramita Sengupta, ICMR Centre for Advanced Research at NIMHANS

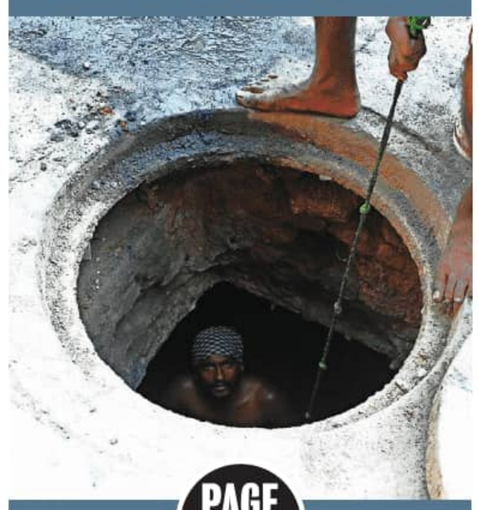
READY TO RIDE

Operators welcome lifting of ban on bike taxis, calling it relief for riders whose livelihood depends on it

PAGE 3

DEEP SHAME

17 deaths reported during 2020 and 2024 in Karnataka during septic tank cleaning



PAGE 5

LAST 2 DAYS

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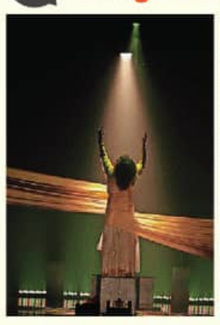
THINGS TO DO

01 Play of perspectives

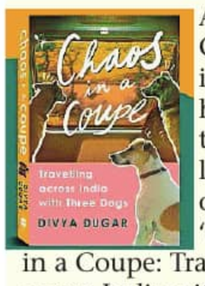


Pratibimb Theatre Company brings its play God's Lioness to Bengaluru this January after shows in Delhi and Gurugram. The 80-minute production retells the story of Mahabharata from Draupadi's perspective, focusing on choice and inner conflict. **Where: Jagriti Theatre on Jan 24 & MAHE on Jan 29**

02 Stories in motion

The 12th Attakkalari India Biennial presents 'Your Symptoms' and 'Flight', a double bill performance by Melancholy Dance Company from South Korea, as part of BLR Hubba. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: January 25, 7.30 pm**

03 Adventure ahead



Atta Galatta is hosting the launch of 'Chaos in a Coupe: Travelling across India with Three Dogs' by Divya Dugar. The book is a witty, whimsical, wry account of travels, accompanied by photographs. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: January 25, 12.30 pm**

04 Emotions unbound

Phoenix Mall of Asia will be hosting acclaimed poet and performer Priya Malik's much-loved India tour, Ishq Hai. Through poetry, narration, and song, Priya Malik weaves stories of innocence, desire, healing, and hope. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: Jan 24, 8 pm**

05 Divine verses

This season, Banyan Tree Events marks a special milestone as their flagship festival, TCS Ruhaniyat – Seeking the Divine, completes 25 glorious years. More than a festival, Ruhaniyat is a soulful journey through the verses of mystics and saints, carried forward by extraordinary artists from across India and beyond. **Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel; When: January 24, 6.15 pm**

Science project earns students national honour

Student duo from government school gets invited to Republic Day celebrations in Delhi after their project idea ranks 86 among top 1,000 student innovations in country

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Students developed project using materials available in school's Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)

Two Class 10 students from a Karnataka government school have earned national recognition after their science and STEM project was selected among the top 1,000 entries across India, earning them a special invitation to the Republic Day celebrations in Delhi. For both students, it will also be their first-ever flight journey, marking a proud and emotional moment for their families and school.

The students, Shankara BH and Yashavanth MS, come from a rural background and are part of a government school under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS), social welfare department. Their project, titled "Eco Spark," focuses on building farmer-friendly agricultural equipment to reduce labour, cost, time, and energy while improving crop yield and promoting scientific farming practices.

The project was developed using materials available in the school's Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL). Through Eco Spark, the students built a prototype of a multi-tasking farming tool that can perform several functions such as ploughing, spade work, seed sowing, manuring, watering, and pesticide spraying all through a single device. The aim was to solve real problems faced by farmers who currently depend on separate tools for each task, increasing both cost and physical effort.

Dream come true

The students participated in the Student Innovation Marathon (SIM) 2024–25, where they e-pitched their project to Anand International College of Engineering, Jaipur, Rajasthan. Their idea was ranked 86th among the top 1,000 student innovations in the country, earning national recognition. Speaking about their achievement, the students said they were extremely excited and grateful for the opportunity. Coming from rural areas, flying in an aircraft for the first time itself feels like a dream, they expressed. Both students shared their desire to pursue careers in the STEM field in the future.

Emerging as inspiration

Principal Suma and the ATL teacher in-charge Tejaswi Kumar MV motivated the students. While speaking to BM, Dr Tukaram, Advisor (Education), KREIS, said that the achievement is a proud moment for the organisation. He said that such success stories are a motivation for students across KREIS schools. "We have 147 schools with Atal Tinkering Labs under KREIS. This achievement will inspire students, especially girls, to pursue careers in science and technology. The ATL labs are being developed as knowledge centres by integrating science, mathematics, computer science and art education, making learning more practical and experiment-based," he said.

Students' achievement stands as proud moment for organisation, serving as success story that motivates peers across KREIS schools and inspires them to pursue careers in science and technology, says KREIS Advisor (Education)

Established in 1999, KREIS is an association of residential educational institutions in Karnataka that provides free education to students from socially and economically weaker sections of society. In 2010, the scouts and guides team went for the Republic Day celebrations, however this was the first time students were invited based on their project performance.

High demand pushes broiler chicken prices up

Despite higher demand during winter, the supply of broiler chickens has fallen short across the state due to weather related factors and production constraints, leading to a sharp rise in prices. Broiler chicken meat that sold at Rs 240 per kg in December is now priced between Rs 300 and Rs 340 per kg in most places. Country chicken is selling close to Rs 400 per kg, while mutton and goat meat prices range from Rs 700 to Rs 800, pushing consumers increasingly towards costlier poultry options as well.

Sources said chick hatching usually takes place in late December and early January, and supply remains tight until the birds grow, while cold weather also slows their growth. Rising production costs have further pushed up wholesale rates, resulting in limited supply to retailers. Traders said that even bulk orders are only partially met, forcing customers to cut back on purchases. Industry representatives noted that this is the first time broiler chicken prices have risen so sharply during winter, with many consumers now opting to buy smaller quantities. **— BMB**

Grace marks and attendance leeway likely for student athletes

Students participating in sports competitions may soon be awarded five grace marks along with 25 per cent attendance soon. Karnataka State Olympic Association President Dr K Govindaraju said that sportspersons already receive 2 per cent reservation in government jobs and 3 per cent reservation in police recruitment, and provisions for attendance and grace marks will also be implemented in the coming days. **— BMB**

Safety norms made mandatory for sleeper and tourist buses

The Transport Department will issue vehicle fitness certificates to private air conditioned sleeper coaches and tourist buses only if they strictly comply with passenger safety standards, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said. The decision follows a series of fire accidents involving AC sleeper buses across the state, prompting the government to prioritise passenger safety and make adherence to safety norms mandatory for all such buses operating in Karnataka.

The minister said guidelines have been framed based on recommendations from the National Human Rights Commission and the Central Institute of Road Transport. These include mandatory emergency exits behind the driver's seat, side opening arrangements for sleeper berths, installation of fire detection systems within a month, and at least a 10 kg fire extinguisher on board. Registration will be allowed only after verifying approval of the bus body builder, while unauthorised chassis extensions are banned and certification from approved testing agencies made compulsory. The norms were finalised after detailed discussions with transport officials on bus design, construction and safety features. **— BMB**

BangaloreMirror
Sleeper buses, burning risks, silent authorities

BM published a story 'Sleeper buses, burning risks, silent authorities' on December 26, 2025, narrating how bus tragedy spotlights consequences of inadequate safety checks

Court gives green light to bike taxis

New ruling allows bike taxi operations to resume in state; operators welcome decision, calling it relief for thousands of riders whose livelihood depends on it

Bike taxis are now permitted to operate in Karnataka

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Even as commuters hail decision, auto and taxi drivers highlight challenges in operations, while experts express concern over passenger safety, with two-wheelers being more vulnerable in accidents

Karnataka High Court has permitted the operation of bike taxi services in the state and directed the government to register motorcycles used for such services as transport vehicles under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi held that there is no blanket prohibition under the law on using two-wheelers for passenger transport, provided statutory requirements are fulfilled. The court observed that motorcycles could be registered as contract carriages and used for hire, subject to compliance with existing legal provisions.

"The Act does not exclude two-wheelers from being used as transport vehicles," the bench said, adding that authorities cannot refuse registration merely because the vehicle has two wheels. It further clarified that the absence of specific state rules cannot be a ground to completely stop bike taxi operations.

The court set aside earlier orders that had effectively halted bike taxi services in Karnataka, stating that such a prohibition lacked legal backing. "A total ban on bike taxis, without statutory support, is unsustainable," the bench noted. While directing the State to process applications for registration and permits, the court made it clear that the government retains the power to impose reasonable conditions. "The authorities are free to prescribe safety norms and other regulatory requirements while granting permits," the judges said.

The ruling came on appeals filed by ride-hailing platforms and bike taxi operators challenging the state government's decision to restrict their services. The judgment is expected to allow bike taxi services to resume operations across Karnataka, particularly in urban areas where they are widely used for short-distance travel and last-mile connectivity.

Bike taxi operators rejoice

"Bike taxis serve as a vital mobility lifeline for Indian cities, offering people an affordable and convenient way to navigate traffic," an Uber spokesperson said. They said that the decision will also bring relief to lakhs of drivers who depend on bike taxis for their livelihood. "We look forward to engaging with the state government on operationalising this mobility ecosystem and serving the mobility needs of our cities across the spectrum," said the spokesperson.

Bike taxi operators have welcomed the decision, calling it a relief for thousands of riders. A bike taxi association rider told Bangalore Mirror that the verdict recognised their right to livelihood. "This judgment acknowledges that bike taxis are a legitimate mode of transport and that riders cannot be pushed out arbitrarily," he said.

Commuters welcome move

Commuters echoed similar sentiments. "Bike taxis are affordable and save time during peak traffic hours. Clear rules will help both passengers and riders feel more secure," said a regular user.

Subhiksha, a school teacher and a regular bike-taxi user, said the city is already choked with traffic and people need practical and affordable travel options. "Bike taxis provide faster travel in comparison to cars, while also the bookings are faster and the rides are hardly cancelled unlike how taxis cancel them," she noted.

Another commuter said, "Lifting the ban is a welcome move and it will significantly improve last-mile connectivity."

Concerns raised

However, auto-rickshaw drivers have criticised the move, warning that it could disrupt the existing transport ecosystem. "Allowing bike taxis without a dedicated policy yet will unfairly impact auto drivers who already operate under strict permit and fare regulations," a union leader said.

Tanveer Pasha of the Ola-Uber Drivers and Owners Association, said, "The verdict given by the High Court on the bike taxi issue has left all of us very disappointed. We do not understand how bike taxis, which were not legal under the Motor Vehicles Act, were able to establish service companies and operate unauthorised services, and then approach the court to fight for the formation of a law for bike taxis." Pasha opined that a proposal should have first been submitted to the government to legalise it and only then should the services have been started. "Although we respect the High Court's judgment, we will explore other legal avenues to challenge bike taxis. We have not yet received a copy of the order, and once we do, we will decide how to proceed. This issue is hampering the business of taxi and auto drivers," he said.

Experts also expressed concern over passenger safety. "Two-wheelers are inherently more vulnerable in traffic, and allowing them to carry passengers commercially without a comprehensive safety framework could increase accident risks," a traffic safety researcher said.

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After year-long wait, Lazar Road white-topping finally set to begin

Lazar Road closure planned as B-SMILE begins phased concreting, easing resident access concerns and restoring key Hennur–Frazer Town link corridor

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The much-delayed white topping on Lazar Road is finally happening. Lazar Road was earmarked for white topping more than a year ago but remained pending due to the inordinate delay in completing white topping on Mosque Road. Lazar Road is expected to be closed to traffic coming from Hennur Road and Davis Road once the work begins. To manage traffic disruptions, the traffic police have made arrangements for two-way movement on Nala Road to help commuters reach Pottery Road. If all goes according to plan, the white topping work on Lazar Road, including the development of footpaths, is expected to be completed within three months.

However, the proposed works have raised concerns among residents of Lazar Layout, which accommodates around 50 dwellings. Residents fear that if the entire stretch of Lazar Road is dug up at once, they will be effectively cut off, as there are no alternative entry or exit routes to the layout. Highlighting this issue, residents approached the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) engineer and the contractor to seek a workable solution.

The residents requested that the white topping be carried out in two phases. Under this plan, access to Pottery Road would be maintained during the first phase, while connectivity to Hennur Road would be ensured in the second phase. Residents believe that a phased approach would significantly ease their daily difficulties during the construction period. They said the proposal received a positive response from the B-SMILE engineer and the contractor.

Residents say prolonged BWSSB digging left Lazar Road dusty, slushy, and unsafe, with repeated utility cuts disrupting daily life for months.

Once a low-traffic and peaceful stretch, Lazar Road connects key areas such as Lingarajapuram and Pulakeshinagar. Over the past year, however, the road has turned into a major source of inconvenience for residents and thousands of commuters. The situation worsened after the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) dug up the road for laying Cauvery water supply and underground drainage pipelines more than a year ago.

"White topping on Lazar Road has been pending for quite a long time. BWSSB dug up the road for laying pipes but did not restore it, stating that the then BBMP Major Roads Department would do the restoration. Now, the white topping is finally set to commence. We are very happy with the positive response from the B-SMILE engineer and the contractor," said Raja Shanmugam, president of the Cooke Town Residents Association.

Vincent Sundar, a resident of Lazar Layout, said the project was initially expected to begin over a year ago but was delayed because white topping work on Mosque Road took more than a year to complete. "The traffic police did not allow contractors to take up white topping on multiple roads simultaneously. Now, the work on Lazar Road is all set to begin," he said.

Sharath Bhat, another resident, pointed out that Lazar Road is an important trunk route connecting Hennur and Frazer Town. "Thousands of commuters from Lingarajapuram and Hennur depend on this road daily to reach Frazer Town," he said. Ajay Gopinath, a resident, described the B-SMILE engineer and contractor as proactive and credited the Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner for the development. "Earlier, the condition of Lazar Road was extremely bad," he said.

Delayed after BWSSB works and Mosque Road overruns, Lazar Road concreting promises footpaths, traffic diversions and phased execution, offering long-awaited relief to Cooke Town residents and thousands of daily commuters

Gareth Hoover, a resident, recalled the hardships faced over the past year. He said poor road conditions, dust, slush during rains, repeated digging for utility works, and lack of pedestrian space made daily life difficult. "With the news that concreting will begin on the 23rd, we finally hope to get some relief," he said.

Port probe meters plug BESCOM revenue leaks

BESCOM has significantly curbed billing manipulation by introducing an automated optical port probe meter reading system, preventing revenue leakage of nearly ₹120 crore within just five months. Rolled out from August 2025, the technology removes human intervention from meter readings, addressing long-standing malpractice where some meter readers allegedly colluded with consumers to under-record electricity usage for bribes or, in other cases, inflate readings, leading to public complaints and revenue loss.

Under the new system, meter readers connect spot billing devices directly to electricity meters using cables or Bluetooth. This enables automatic, tamper-proof readings and instant bill generation, ensuring accuracy and transparency. Currently, about 57.08 lakh of BESCOM's total 1.10 crore low-tension connections are covered. The system works on DLMS-enabled static digital meters installed after 2016. Energy Minister K J George said the port probe technology has strengthened revenue collection and improved public confidence through error-free billing. Encouraged by the results, the Energy Department has decided to extend the system across all ESCOMs in Karnataka to permanently plug billing-related revenue leakage. — BMB

Hebbal–Sarjapur metro gets cost cut

Preparations are underway for the long-awaited Phase 3 of Namma Metro, with the proposed extension of the Red Line from Hebbal to Sarjapur moving closer to execution. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is set to submit the final Detailed Project Report (DPR) shortly, after revising the project cost downward following feedback from the Centre.

The 37-km corridor had earlier received state approval in December at an estimated cost of ₹28,405 crore. However, the Centre sought a review citing the high financial outlay. After reassessment, the project cost has now been reduced to ₹25,485 crore, bringing down the estimate by ₹2,920 crore. Officials said the updated DPR will first be submitted to the state government and then forwarded to the Centre, with hopes of securing final approval by March.

According to sources, the Hebbal–Sarjapur corridor will feature 28 stations, including 11 underground stations along a 14.45-km tunnel stretch. Four major interchange stations are planned at Hebbal, KR Circle, Dairy Circle and Agara, enabling seamless connectivity with the Red, Blue, Purple and Pink lines. Once operational, the corridor is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion by linking Sarjapur, a key technology hub, with north Bengaluru.

As part of Phase 3 preparations, BMRCL has floated tenders worth ₹6.86 crore for geotechnical studies across four packages. The funding structure includes 20% contribution each from the Centre and the State, with the remaining 60% to be mobilised through external loans. — BMB

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Illegal parking nuisance

HSR Layout

Vehicles parked illegally along 27th Main Road are disrupting traffic flow and causing inconvenience to commuters.

Mud-covered road concern

Kilari Road

Heavy mud on Kilari Road 4th Cross near C B Bhandari School makes walking difficult, affecting several residents, especially women.

Transformer relocation delay

Pillai Street Cross

Despite a Karnataka High Court directive, BESCOM has failed for over 15 years to shift transformers from footpaths and stormwater drains at 174, Old Market Road, Narayana Pillai Street Cross, Bharati Nagar, Shivaji Nagar.

Police seize drugs worth ₹70k

Police conduct major crackdown, seizing meth and ganja, ensuring public safety across key Bangalore junctions

The Northeast Division of the Bangalore City Police conducted a series of coordinated policing activities this week, including weekly parades, night rounds, and major drug seizures, aimed at strengthening discipline, preparedness, and public safety. During these operations, police officers seized contraband in two cases, with the total value estimated at ₹70,000.

Weekly parades were held at Kothanur Police Station and Kempegowda International Airport Police Station, where officers were briefed on maintaining discipline, operational readiness, and effective policing measures to ensure law and order. Senior officers of the division guided personnel on professional conduct and community-oriented policing.

In parallel, Chikkajala Police Station registered significant success in anti-narcotics operations. Police arrested one individual for peddling synthetic drugs and seized 10 grams of methamphetamine, valued at approximately ₹20,000. In another operation, two ganja peddlers were arrested, and 1.05 kg of ganja, worth about ₹50,000, was seized. The total value of the seized contraband is estimated at ₹70,000.

During night rounds, Hoysala patrol personnel deployed at key locations such as Bhadrappa Junction, Nagawara Junction, and the Hebbal Flyover were inspected. They were instructed to ensure a prompt response during emergencies, improve field performance, and remain vigilant by checking suspicious vehicles and persons during late hours.

–BMB

Smart city promises fail, workers die underground

Parliament data shows hundreds killed during hazardous sanitation work, exposing enforcement failures, contractor negligence and dangerous gaps behind rapid urban expansion

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Urban expansion masks rising sanitation worker deaths and routine safety breaches

Despite smart-city promises and mechanisation claims, hundreds of sanitation workers have died while entering toxic underground spaces over the past five years. The figures reveal rising fatalities, uneven state oversight and routine safety breaches, raising urgent questions about accountability in rapidly expanding cities

Even in an age of modern machinery, smart sanitation systems and rapid urban innovation, India continues to record the shocking loss of human lives to hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning. Fresh data presented in the Rajya Sabha shows 339 deaths nationwide between 2020 and 2024, a brutal reminder that this deadly, outdated practice still thrives beneath the surface of urban India. Karnataka alone reported 17 deaths during this period, placing the state among the worst-affected regions despite repeated assurances of mechanisation and safety protocols.

The national trend reveals a disturbing climb — from 39 deaths in 2020 to a peak of 108 in 2023 — before easing slightly to 54 in 2024, underscoring systemic neglect and widespread safety violations that continue to endanger sanitation workers.

Rising toll

According to recent data tabled in Parliament, Maharashtra recorded the highest five-year total with 54 deaths, followed closely by Gujarat with 27, while Tamil Nadu logged 48 deaths, emerging as another major hotspot. Karnataka's 17 deaths place it uncomfortably high on the national chart, surpassing many larger states and reflecting serious lapses in enforcement, monitoring and the adoption of mechanised cleaning practices.

As per the data, Karnataka's trajectory reveals repeated failures. The state reported five deaths in 2020 and seven in 2021, and although it saw a temporary halt in 2022, the numbers rose again to three in 2023 and two in 2024. This inconsistency exposes deeper structural and administrative weaknesses, where reforms appear reactive rather than sustained. Even as major cities such as Bengaluru project themselves as technologically advanced hubs, the continued reliance on hazardous manual entry into sewers points to a dangerous disconnect between urban progress and workers' safety.

Compared with Karnataka, several states reported zero deaths for multiple consecutive years — Odisha, West Bengal in most years, Goa, Uttarakhand and the north-eastern states — showing that safer sanitation systems are both possible and achievable. Karnataka's higher fatality count, particularly when compared with states of similar population size, raises questions about enforcement, municipal oversight and the urgency with which safety advisories are implemented.

The Ministry clarified that these deaths are not classified as "manual scavenging" under the 2013 Act but fall under hazardous cleaning — situations where workers are sent into toxic spaces without protective gear, in violation of mandatory safety precautions. Despite detailed standard operating procedures, advisories and mechanisation drives under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-U) 2.0, the deaths persist, suggesting a worrying pattern of non-compliance by contractors, municipal bodies and local authorities.

The government has repeatedly emphasised mechanised cleaning, establishing Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) and promoting safety training under Safaimitra Suraksha initiatives. However, Karnataka's recurring fatalities indicate that mechanisation remains far from universal. Many deaths continue to occur in unregulated private cleaning operations, poorly monitored suburbs and fast-growing urban pockets where oversight is weak and accountability weaker.

Urgent overhaul

Krishna D, an activist, said: "For Karnataka, the data is a wake-up call. The state must confront the stark truth that technological progress has not translated into safer working conditions for those handling its most essential sanitation tasks. Unless mechanisation becomes non-negotiable and safety enforcement uncompromising, the numbers may continue to rise — turning preventable deaths into an ongoing tragedy hidden beneath the streets of a modernising state."

MLC 'insults' Governor, house erupts

The Karnataka Legislative Council on Friday witnessed an uproarious scene, leading to an adjournment over the alleged insult to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot by Congress MLC BK Hariprasad. Hariprasad, on Thursday, tried to stop Gehlot as other Congress legislators attempted to 'gherao' him soon after he concluded his address to the joint session of the Karnataka Legislature.

As soon as the session began, the BJP MLCs demanded Hariprasad's dismissal from the House for his unruly behaviour towards the Governor. "We will not tolerate hooliganism. He has insulted the Governor. Suspend Hariprasad," the BJP MLCs shouted in unison.

Quickly, the Congress MLCs, along with the ministers, came out in support of Hariprasad. They shouted, "Reproof to the BJP." Council Chairperson Basavaraj Horatti tried to pacify the agitating MLCs and reprimanded a few of them. The Leader of the Opposition, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, said Hariprasad's unruly behaviour was unacceptable.

Congress MLC Hariprasad allegedly insults Governor Gehlot, sparking heated clashes with BJP in Council, forcing session adjournment

He also dismissed the Congress allegation that the Governor had insulted the national anthem, saying that the anthem had never been played as Gehlot walked away.

"Suspend Hariprasad from the Council. We will not tolerate this hooliganism. Insulting the Governor is insulting the Constitution," Narayanaswamy said.

Replying to the charges, Hariprasad said the Governor was supposed to wait until the national anthem was played, but he did not and walked away. This, he argued, was an insult to the national anthem.

Horatti said the note on the alleged insult to the Governor did not contain any names.

"I have asked for the details of the joint session. Let the report come," the Chairman said. As the commotion continued, Horatti announced an adjournment.

–PTI

Malur emerges as new investment hotspot

With property prices in Bengaluru continuing to pinch pockets, a growing number of residents are now setting their sights on Malur and its surrounding areas. Once known mainly for its agricultural belt, Malur, located about 35 km from the city, is quietly transforming into a preferred destination for real estate investment.

Real estate consultants say enquiries from Bengaluru buyers have doubled over the past year, especially for plotted developments and villa projects. "People are no longer looking only for immediate returns. They want land that will grow in value over five to ten years, and Malur fits that expectation perfectly," said a senior property adviser based in Whitefield.

Connectivity has played a major role in this shift. With smoother access from Whitefield, KR Puram and Hoskote, Malur has become an easy weekend drive for city residents scouting for investments. "I could never afford a large plot in Bengaluru. In Malur, I was able to buy land at a reasonable price and still stay connected to the city," said Ramesh, a software professional who recently invested there.

Developers point out that the area is attracting not just investors but also end-users planning future homes. "Many buyers are professionals in their 30s who see Malur as a retirement or second-home option," said a developer with projects in the region.

–BMB

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Luxury homes drive growth

India's housing market is moving up the value ladder. ICC–ANAROCK's latest report shows that 2025 marked the year premium and luxury homes overtook affordable units in driving the market. Sales volumes across the top cities fell by 14%, but total transaction value grew by 6% to cross 6 lakh crore.

Homes priced under 75 lakh now make up just a third of total sales, while luxury units above 4 crore account for nearly a fifth. Ultra-luxury homes priced at 40 crore and above recorded a 66% surge, largely driven by Mumbai.

Buyers are increasingly shifting towards larger, amenity-rich homes. Three-bedroom and larger units now dominate 45–50% of demand, up from 30% in 2018, while average unit sizes in major cities have risen by 40% since 2021.

Supply has also become more institutional, with Grade A developers now delivering 45% of new homes. Strong fundamentals, rising incomes and low mortgage penetration position the sector as a key engine of urban growth and a structural driver of India's expanding economy.

–BMB

High-end sales surge

Bengaluru has emerged as a key driver of India's changing housing market, with high-end homes taking the largest share of residential sales for the first time in 2025, according to CBRE's India Market Monitor Q4 2025 – Residential report.

Across the country, the high-end segment accounted for nearly 27 per cent of total home sales during the calendar year, reflecting a clear shift in buyer preference towards larger, lifestyle-oriented homes. In Bengaluru, where high-end housing is defined in the 1.5 crore to 2.5 crore range, strong end-user demand, steady NRI interest and a healthy pipeline of premium launches helped the city stand out in both sales and new supply.

CBRE noted that the rise of the high-end category, whose market share has more than doubled since 2022, is being fuelled by rising household incomes, improved infrastructure and a growing emphasis on quality, design and long-term value. Bengaluru recorded around 44,500 housing sales and close to 50,900 new unit launches in 2025, underscoring its position as one of the most active residential markets in the country.

The trend also mirrors a broader structural shift in India's housing sector, with premiumisation, calibrated supply and evolving buyer aspirations expected to continue shaping demand in the coming quarters.

–BMB

Republic Day offers add spark to property buying season

Republic Day has emerged as one of the most preferred periods for property purchases, with developers across cities unveiling a range of special offers to attract buyers. As the first major occasion of the year, it sets the tone for fresh investments, and many homebuyers see it as the right moment to take long-pending decisions. The real estate market witnesses heightened activity during this period, driven by attractive pricing, added benefits and flexible payment options tailored around Republic Day.

Developers are keen to leverage the sentiment associated with the national occasion. Many are offering price reductions, booking amount waivers and customised payment plans to ease the buying process. "Republic Day offers allow us to connect with buyers who are planning to start the year with a meaningful investment. We introduce limited-period incentives that genuinely reduce the financial burden," said Vishwas Gowda, a property developer. He added that benefits such as free car parking, registration support and interior upgrades are also being extended across select residential and commercial projects.

Realtors point out that Republic Day deals combine emotional appeal with practical value. With infrastructure development gaining pace and demand remaining steady, purchasing property during this window can offer long-term returns. For those planning to buy a home or invest in land, Republic Day presents a timely opportunity backed by meaningful incentives and strong market fundamentals. **–BMB**

Office leasing market soars

Even as net office leasing in the city dipped marginally in 2025, Bengaluru continued to anchor India's commercial real estate market, with the top seven cities recording an all-time high net absorption of about 55.16 million sq ft during the year, up 10 per cent from 2024, according to ANAROCK Research. Bengaluru accounted for the largest share at around 14.15 million sq ft, though this was a 5 per cent decline from last year, reflecting a moderation in IT and ITeS demand amid global headwinds.

Despite the slowdown in leasing, Bengaluru remained a key driver of market momentum, supported by strong activity from global capability centres, which took a record 41 per cent share of gross leasing across cities. Rentals in Bengaluru also rose the fastest among major markets, climbing 9 per cent year-on-year to about ₹102 per sq ft, even as overall vacancy levels across the top seven cities eased slightly to 16.1 per cent in 2025. **–BMB**

REIT investments soar rapidly

Bengaluru's Grade A office market has emerged as a key driver behind India's Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) boom, with the country's REIT sector now overtaking Hong Kong in market scale. According to an ANAROCK Capital report, India's listed REITs have built a gross asset value of about ₹2.3 lakh crore and a combined market capitalisation of nearly ₹1.66 lakh crore in just six years, despite only around 32 per cent of REIT-eligible stock being listed. With Bengaluru housing some of the largest REIT-owned office portfolios, the sector has delivered a five-year annualised price return of 8.9 per cent, outperforming peers in Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong, while Q2 FY26 distributions jumped nearly 70 per cent year-on-year to ₹2,331 crore, with yields steady in the 5.1 to 6 per cent range.

The report stated that Bengaluru, along with NCR and Mumbai, continues to anchor REIT growth, with five listed trusts now controlling around 176 million sq ft of Grade A office and retail space. Occupancies remain strong at 90 to 96 per cent, supported by healthy re-leasing spreads, while the city alone accounts for a significant share of pan-India office leasing. ANAROCK Capital noted that SEBI's decision to reclassify REITs as equity-related instruments from January 1, 2026 is expected to widen mutual fund participation and trigger index inclusion, further strengthening Bengaluru's position at the heart of India's fast-growing REIT market. **–BMB**

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and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

BACKWATER LIFE AFLOAT

Our reader shares a capture of a traditional houseboat, locally known as a kettuvallam, navigating the backwaters of Alappuzha, offering a tranquil glimpse into Kerala's waterways and village life.

The picture was clicked by reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Smaller wards redraw B'luru polls, turning every vote into battleground

With ward sizes shrinking across five corporations, tight margins, higher turnout drives, and organisational strength will define victories this election

The creation of small wards within the limits of five city corporations has made intense electoral competition unavoidable for candidates. This development has posed a fresh challenge for political parties while framing their election strategies for the corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority. With fewer voters per ward, margins of victory are expected to be narrow, making every vote critical.

The formation of five corporations after the division of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has significantly altered the electoral landscape. Wards have been redesigned based on population and voter strength, resulting in several compact constituencies, particularly in sparsely populated areas. Although delimitation guidelines recommended 20,000 to 30,000 voters per ward, many wards now have only 15,000 to 20,000 voters, intensifying competition and raising the stakes for candidates.

Political sources note that in the East Corporation alone, nearly half of its 50 wards fall below the 20,000-voter mark. Ward number 10, Kothanur, stands out with just 10,926 voters and 12 polling booths. Observers point out that with average turnout levels, a candidate securing around 3,000 votes could be enough to win in such a ward, underlining how slender the margins could be.

Across the five corporations, a total of 369 wards have been created. Of these, 235 wards, or about 64 percent, have between 21,000 and 30,000 voters. These wards are expected to see direct contests, where candidates from major political parties will rely heavily on organisational strength, cadre mobilisation and local influence to gain an edge.

Voter turnout remains a key variable. Bengaluru has traditionally recorded turnout of around 50 percent in most elections, with rates above 60 percent being relatively rare. This time, however, there is an expectation of higher participation, with both the Election Commission and political parties likely to intensify efforts to push turnout beyond 65 percent.

Redesigned wards under the Greater Bengaluru Authority intensify contests, especially in low-voter areas, where modest turnouts can decide winners, forcing parties and independents to recalibrate strategies and mobilisation efforts citywide.

The distribution of voters across corporations further highlights the competitive nature of the polls. The North and South Corporations have 72 wards each, the East has 50, the West 112 and the Central Corporation 63. Among these, 85 wards have fewer than 20,000 voters, while 39 wards fall in the 30,000 to 40,000 range and 14 exceed 40,000 voters. The West Corporation alone has 30 low-voter wards, followed by 23 in the East.

In such tightly contested wards, even a 60 percent turnout in a 20,000-voter constituency could allow a candidate to win with just 5,000 to 6,000 votes. At the other end of the spectrum, high-voter wards such as Jakkur, Thanisandra, Sampigehalli, Subramanyapura and Rajarajeshwarinagar, each with over 42,000 voters, are expected to pose tougher electoral challenges. **— BMB**

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Supporters cheer and gesture enthusiastically as leaders interact with crowds, highlighting competitive ward-level campaigning under the new corporation structure

DID YOU KNOW?

Global investment in space technology is expected to accelerate further in 2026, driven by increased government spending on defence-linked satellite systems and sustained private sector interest in launch capacity, according to investment firm Seraphim Space. Space infrastructure is increasingly viewed as a strategic national priority, with countries competing to attract capital and secure geopolitical and security advantages. Investors anticipate momentum from expanding sovereign satellite and missile-defence programmes, greater integration of artificial intelligence into space hardware and analytics, and the potential listing of SpaceX. A SpaceX initial public offering could act as a major catalyst, validating SpaceTech as a mainstream asset class and creating clearer exit pathways for late-stage companies. The sector hit record investment levels in 2025, with private funding rising 48% year-on-year to $12.4 billion, including $3.8 billion in the final quarter. This surpassed the 2021 peak and marked a full recovery from the 2022 downturn, outperforming the broader venture capital market. The United States led global investment with $7.3 billion, while Europe saw modest growth and Asia remained strong, led by China's expanding launch and satellite manufacturing ecosystem. **— Reuters**

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White House shares altered image showing arrest of civil rights attorney in Minnesota

THE CLAIM: The Trump administration circulated an image on X claiming it showed civil rights attorney Nekima Levy Armstrong crying while being arrested during a Minnesota church protest, implying emotional distress and guilt during law enforcement action tied to anti-immigration enforcement.
FACT: The claim is false. The original photograph shows Nekima Levy Armstrong calm and composed. Attorneys say the White House shared a digitally altered image to exaggerate emotion. Matching background details confirm manipulation, not a separate moment or different photograph.

The Trump administration on Thursday misrepresented the arrest of a prominent civil rights attorney for her role in an anti-immigration enforcement protest that disrupted a service at a Minnesota church. On its official X page, the White House shared an image of Nekima Levy Armstrong that showed her in tears, with her arms behind her back, standing in front of someone wearing a badge around their neck.

The problem? Levy Armstrong wasn't actually crying. The image was manipulated to make the moment more dramatic than it actually was.

Jordan Kushner, an attorney for Levy Armstrong, said he was present at his client's arrest and said any videos and photos put out by the administration showing her crying were manipulated images.

"It is just so outrageous that the White House would make up stories about someone to try and discredit them," Kushner said. "She was completely calm and composed and rational. There was no one crying. So this is just outrageous defamation."

He added that video Levy Armstrong's husband shot "dismantles what they claim" and that the video would be released soon.

Amid growing questions about the image, White House Deputy Communications Director Kaelan Dorr wrote on X Thursday afternoon: "YET AGAIN to the people who feel the need to reflexively defend perpetrators of heinous crimes in our country, I share with you this message: Enforcement of the law will continue. The memes will continue. Thank you for your attention to this matter."

Attorney General Pam Bondi announced Levy Armstrong's arrest in an X post at 9.28 am. EST. Less than an hour later, at 10.21 am EST, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem posted the original photo of Levy Armstrong, also on X. The White House then shared the manipulated image at 10.54 am EST.

Certain details in both images are the same, indicating they are not simply photos taken at different times. For example, the badge worn by the person behind Levy Armstrong is in the same position, as are the lights shining through the curtain to the left of Levy Armstrong's head. Neither the White House nor Homeland Security immediately responded to requests for additional comment. **— AP**

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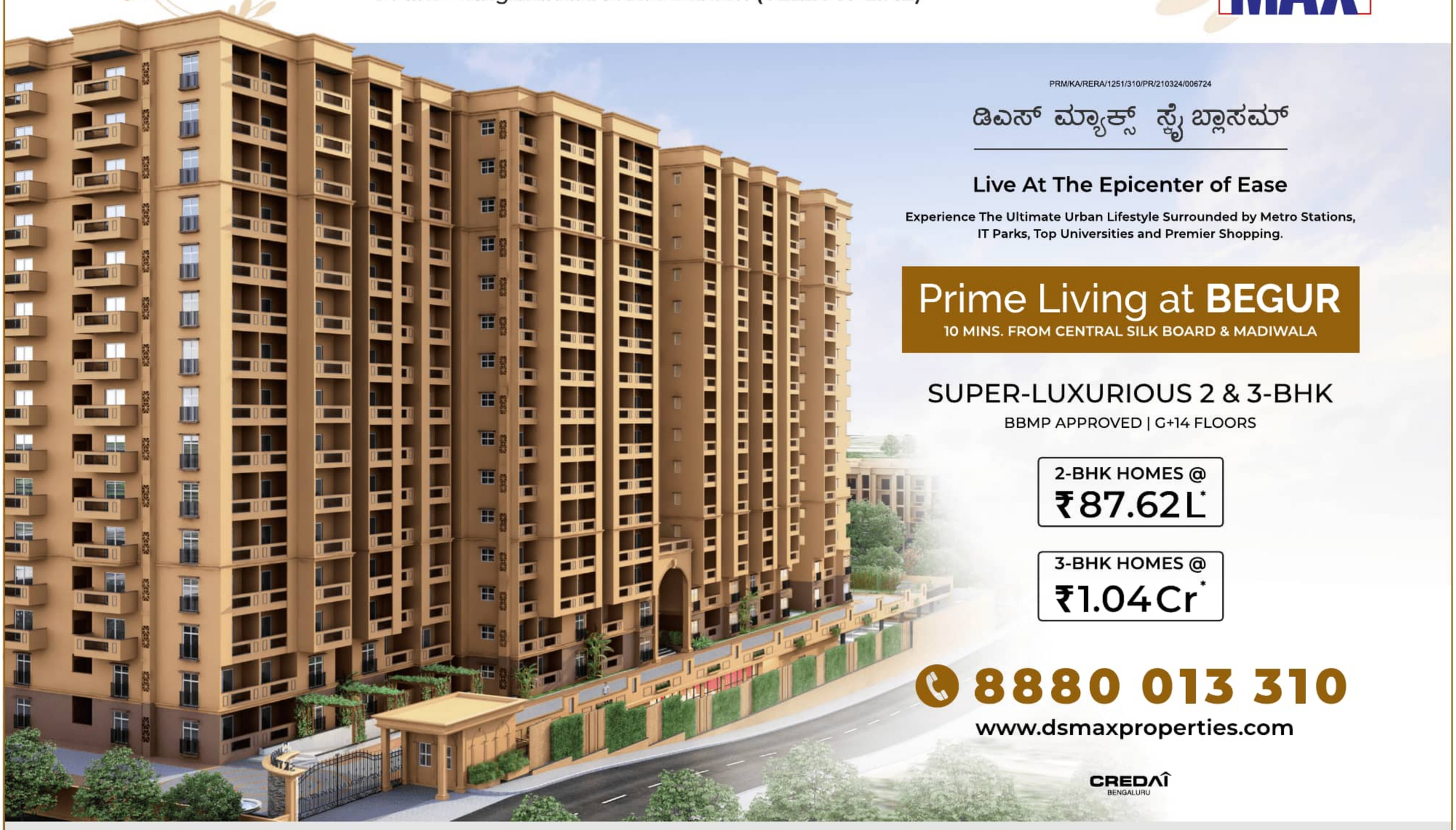

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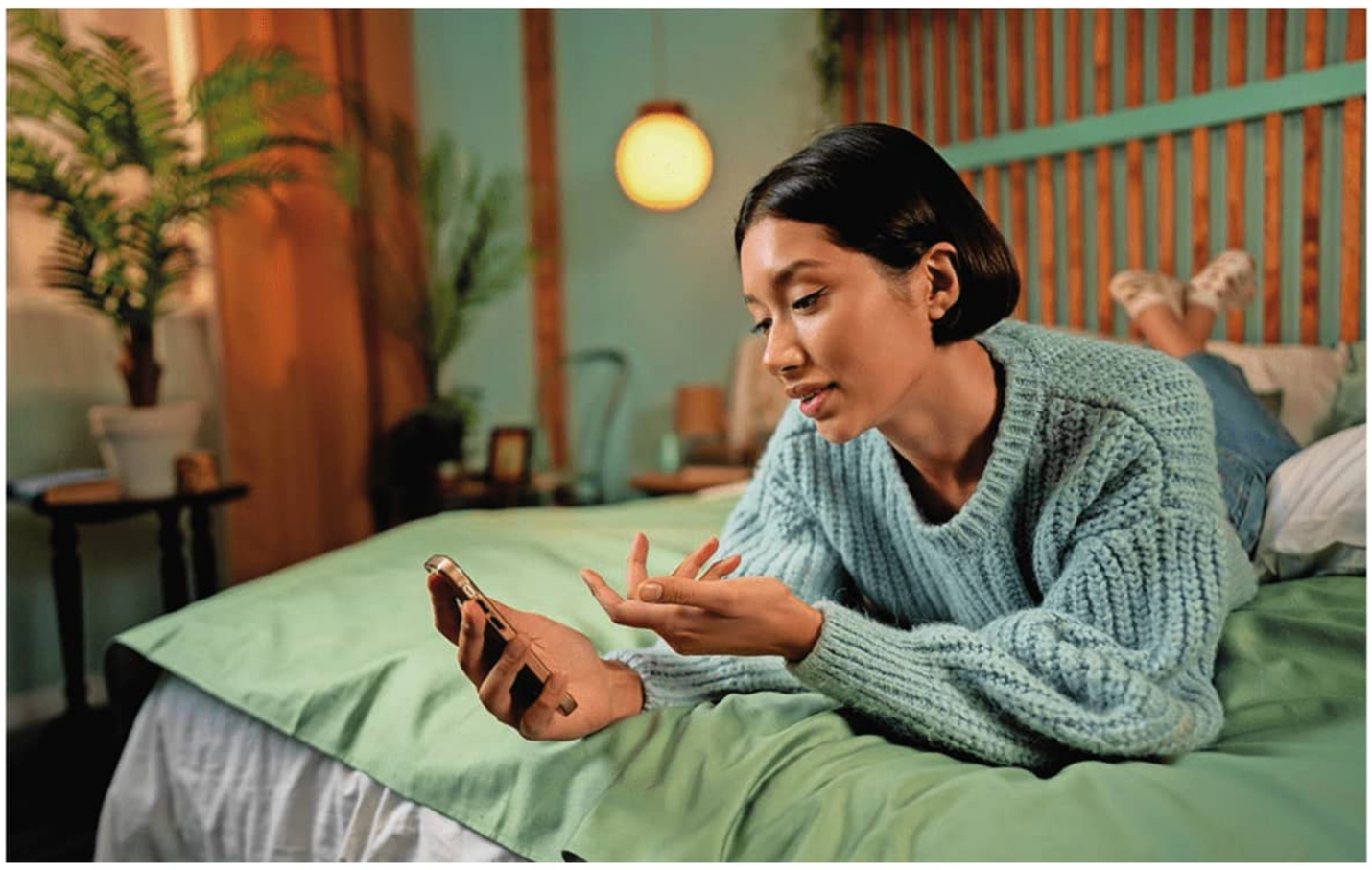
15% of apps don't disclose how user data may be shared with third-parties

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

About 65% of mental health apps did not mention any involvement of mental health experts in their development. Commenting on this gap, Pramita Sengupta, Project Research Scientist - II from ICMR Centre for Advanced Research at NIMHANS, said, "Mental health apps are not just wellbeing tools, they can often supplement and complement mainstream professional services. When mental health professionals are not involved in their design, there is a real risk of oversimplifying complex psychological issues, offering inappropriate or insufficient guidance, or missing warning signs of risk and in some cases it may even cause delay in professional help seeking."

The study noted that while most apps were well-designed and easy to use, the quality and accuracy of information varied widely. Dr Seema Mehrotra, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Head of ICMR Centre for Advanced Research at NIMHANS, said, "A deeper level engagement and collaboration between mental health experts and technology experts can help ensure that content is evidence-informed, ethically sound, and sensitive to user vulnerability. This underscores the importance of uniform and consistent guidelines on development and deployment of mental health apps and transparent expert involvement in digital mental health tools, starting from the conceptualisation stage and continuing through validation."



Major privacy gaps

As much as 15% of apps did not disclose how the user data might be shared with third-parties, 41% failed to specify data retention periods, and 48% offered no option for users to delete their data, exposing serious privacy risks. Adding to concerns, only about 10% of apps were developed by academic institutions, government agencies, or NGOs.

Abhishek Karishiddimath, Project Research Scientist - II from ICMR Centre for Advanced Research at NIMHANS, said, "Our study shows that many mental health apps fall short on basic data protection practices. This is particularly concerning because mental health information is extremely sensitive and is often shared during periods of vulnerability. When data retention periods are not specified their information may be stored for an indefinite period, increasing the risk of misuse, secondary use, or data breaches over time. The lack of a data deletion option is troubling, as it takes away the control from the users who may no longer want their data retained after a certain period. This highlights the urgent need for stronger privacy safeguards and clearer regulatory standards for mental health apps."

Researchers emphasised the need for clear regulations to ensure mental health apps maintain quality and privacy. They advocate for professional involvement in developing culturally relevant, evidence-based tools and for public-private partnerships to support them. Alongside building evidence, improving digital mental health literacy is crucial in helping users make informed, safe choices without treating apps as substitutes for professional care.

MORE INSIGHTS

- Only about 18% of the mental health apps were of Asian origin.
- Around 34% of the apps had a single function, such as assessment, tracking, education, or intervention.
- Approximately 66% were multifunctional, combining two or more of these features.
- About 58% of the apps used CBT or third-wave CBT approaches.
- Only 11% of the apps had empirical research supporting them.

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I, Younus Iqbal Iqbal S/o Mohammed Jaffer Khan R/o No 27/5 1st Flr 12th Cross Ummernagar Beside Shoe Factory Govindapura Bangalore 560045 have changed my name to Younus Iqbal .

I Poorna Chandra G, Son of Govinda raju , No 38 belaku, 1b cross, shivapura, Kattigenahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560064 have changed my name to Poorna Chandra for all purpose.

I Tanmay Chhajer S/o Sanjay Chhajer R/o Muneshwara Nagar, Bangalore have changed my mother's name from Payal Chhajer to Payal Jain for all future purposes.

I, Shalini Kapoor Mehta Resident No. 2303 Anriya Dwellington, Dollars Colony, Rmv 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560094, changed My Name from Shalini Kapoor to Shalini Kapoor Mehta to all further purposes.(Reference Date of Birth 17/10/1971).

I, THIMMA REDDY K, S/o. Late. KRISHNA REDDY, Resident of #510, Thimma Reddy Building, 4th Main, 2nd Cross, Near Adarsh Hotel, Electronic City, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560100 here by declare that THIMMA REDDY K & TIMMA REDDY K, both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 12.11.2025 Notary B.M Chandrashekar, B.lore.

I, HEMANTH KUMAR P, S/o B Prem Kumar, Resident of #E, 114, Near Post Office, Immadi Halli, Bangalore North, PO, Immedihalli, Dist: Bangalore, Karnataka-560066 here by decalre that HEMANTH KUMAR & HEMANTH KUMAR P, both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 20.01.2026 Notary V Rangaraju, B.lore.

GET NOTICED

Drunk driving: 26 school bus drivers booked

The Traffic Police conducted a special enforcement drive against drunk driving by school vehicle drivers on Thursday morning, during which 26 drivers were found to be under the influence of alcohol.

The operation was carried out between 7 am and 10 am across the city, with strict checks aimed at preventing any risk to students during their daily commute. According to the police, a total of 5,110 school vehicle drivers were screened for alcohol consumption during the three-hour drive. Of these, 26 drivers were found to be under the influence of alcohol and were immediately booked under the provisions of the Indian Motor Vehicles (IMV) Act.

Traffic police officials explained that all drivers who tested positive were prosecuted on the spot, and their driving licences will be forwarded to the respective Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) for suspension. BMB

Puneeth Kerehalli arrested for 2nd time in a month

Bagalgunte police arrested right-wing activist Puneeth Kerehalli for the second time this month around 1.30 am on Friday. He was taken into custody in connection with an assault and obstruction case linked to the alleged illegal transportation of meat.

Police officials said Puneeth, who has a criminal history including cases of illegal cow smuggling, murder, and other offences, had repeatedly failed to appear for questioning despite multiple notices. A court had issued a warrant against him on January 21 in connection with an assault case registered on July 20, 2025.

Acting on the complaint and his continued non-cooperation, a police team arrested him at Kerehalli near Soladevanahalli police station, where he had allegedly gone to file a complaint about a man being an illegal Bangladeshi immigrant. Puneeth was later released on bail. **BMB**

BMTC to roll out dynamic QR-based UPI ticketing

New dynamic QR system to address malpractice, errors and screenshot misuse by linking each payment directly to specific ticket and conductor ID in real time

Sanjana CS
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In efforts to modernise public transport and promote cashless travel, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is set to implement a dynamic QR-based UPI payment system across its fleet in two months.

According to a BMTC spokesperson, the new system aims to make ticketing more transparent, secure and foolproof, reducing revenue leakages while enhancing commuter convenience, and is currently under study to assess its implementation. "The inauguration will take another two months. When the system was recently rolled out, only static QR codes were provided, now, the aim is to adopt a dynamic QR code–based UPI mechanism, similar to those used by vegetable vendors and street shops, to ensure greater transparency."

The BMTC is advancing its push for cashless travel by installing static UPI QR codes in 75 per cent of its buses. This initiative is expected to make digital payments more accessible while reducing dependency on cash transactions. In addition, dynamic UPI QR codes are being rolled out at major depots such as Shanthinagar, Peenya, and Subashnagar. According to BMTC officials, UPI transactions currently account for 20 per cent of daily ticket revenue.

The development of upgrading to dynamic UPI QR codes also comes following the suspension of three BMTC conductors who were allegedly diverting ticket fare collections into their personal bank accounts by misusing the UPI-based ticketing system.

Inspections revealed that the accused staff were not using the official BMTC scanners. Instead, they allegedly instructed passengers to scan their personal UPI QR codes, thereby transferring ticket fares directly into their own accounts.

When questioned about the extent of misuse by conductors, BMTC officials clarified that the UPI-based ticketing system was introduced in 2025 and that static QR codes were initially provided only as a backup option to ensure payment flexibility for passengers.

"Conductors were given official mobile phones to verify whether payments had been received. So far, four conductors have been suspended in connection with this issue. The fraud first came to light in December during an inquiry against one conductor, following which inspections across depots revealed similar misuse by two others. Based on one or two cases, it cannot be concluded that all staff are indulging in malpractice," said BMTC officials.

At present, BMTC allows UPI payments through static QR codes pasted inside buses and at select terminals. However, the static system has been prone to errors, including passengers inadvertently paying to the wrong account, difficulty in verifying payments instantly, and the possibility of screenshots being reused. The new dynamic system is expected to address these shortcomings by linking each payment directly to a specific ticket and conductor ID in real time.

With new QR system and further upgrades in pipeline, BMTC is paving way for more efficient, transparent and fully digitalised public transport system

IN FOCUS
UPI payments

SOCIALTATTLE

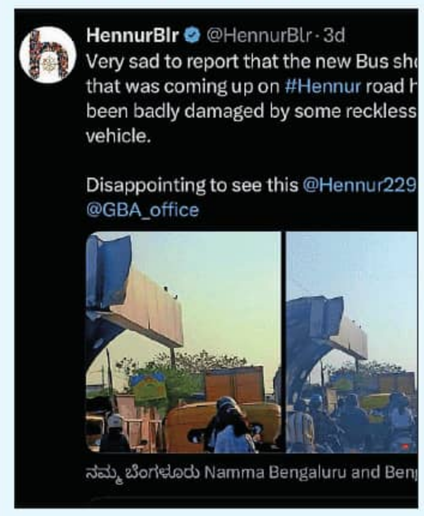
THAT WENT VIRAL

Bengaluru Post @bengalurup... · 4h
Pink Tabebuia bloomed earlier.
Now the yellow has taken over
Cubbon Park is once again reminding us wh
green spaces matter in Bengaluru.
Cubbon Park

A post on X highlighted how from pink Tabebuia to yellow blooms, Cubbon Park is a reminder of why Bengaluru's green spaces are priceless.

Netizens are loving the lush landscapes and serene vibes shared by @sajeerp_ in a post on X showcasing IISc Bangalore campus as a green paradise.

WHAT'S TWEETING


HennurBlr @HennurBlr · 3d
Very sad to report that the new Bus sh
that was coming up on #Hennur road H
been badly damaged by some reckless
vehicle.
Disappointing to see this @Hennur229
@GBA_office
ನಮ್ಮ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು Namma Bengaluru and Ben

An X user shared a post stating it was heartbreaking to see the new Hennur Road bus shelter damaged by reckless driving.

INBRIEF

Cash rewards announced for 114 police personnel

The state government has announced a cash reward of Rs 45.05 lakh for 114 police officers and personnel for successfully cracking two high profile cases: the rape case registered against former MP Prajwal Revanna and MLA HD Revanna, and the major bank theft at Nyamati in Davanagere district. The reward recognises the investigation that led to conviction in both cases, according to officials.

Based on the recommendation of ADGP Vijay Kumar Singh, who headed the SIT probing the Prajwal Revanna case, cash prizes have been awarded to senior officers including Mysuru Police Commissioner Seema Latkar and several IPS, CID and Cyber Crime officials involved in the probe. In the Nyamati bank theft case, the government announced rewards totalling Rs 10.2 lakh for 83 personnel who played a key role in solving the crime. The incentives have been distributed across various ranks in recognition of effective investigation. –BMB

KMF expands Nandini range with newly launched products

The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has launched a new range of value-added Nandini dairy products, expanding its portfolio to meet changing consumer lifestyles, nutritional needs, and food safety expectations. The products were formally unveiled by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha.

The newly introduced products include GoodLife High Aroma Ghee with QR code security, Nandini Pure Ghee in QR-enabled PET jars, medium-fat paneer, N-Pro Milk with high protein content, probiotic curd, probiotic mango lassi, probiotic strawberry lassi, dairy whitener, and affordable daily-use products such as cow's milk and curd priced at Rs 10.

KMF, which operates under the "from cow to consumer" philosophy, currently offers more than 175 milk and dairy products under the Nandini brand and has built a strong presence both within Karnataka and beyond the state and country.

The new portfolio includes N-Pro Milk, a high-protein milk with 18 per cent more protein than regular toned milk, available in 500 ml packs at Rs 27, making it an accessible nutrition-focused option for all age groups.

The brand has also introduced medium-fat paneer with 50 grams of protein, priced at Rs 90 for 200 grams, with an introductory Rs 5 discount.

Strengthening food safety, GoodLife Pure Ghee (High Aroma) and Nandini Pure Ghee will now feature QR code-enabled packaging to help consumers verify product authenticity. –BMB

Party leader suspended for abusive language

Congress in Karnataka on Friday suspended party leader Rajeev Gowda, who had used abusive words against Sidlaghatta Municipal Commissioner.

The Congress leader is allegedly on the run after an FIR was registered against him on January 14 following a complaint by Amrutha Gowda, who alleged that he had abused her and threatened her with dire consequences over phone for removing a banner with his photograph.

In the order, the Congress State Disciplinary Committee President K Rahman Khan said, considering the gravity of the matter, Rajeev Gowda has been suspended from the party. –PTI

HEALTH TIP: Short, indoor workouts such as strength training, resistance-band exercises, yoga, or mobility drills are highly effective

Even 15 to 30 minutes of structured movement helps preserve muscle mass, regulate blood sugar, and maintain metabolic rate

BangaloreMirror | 12
Saturday, January 24, 2026
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WORK AROUND IT

How to get managers to say yes to flexible work arrangements, according to new research

In the modern workplace, flexible arrangements can be as important as salary for some. For many employees, flexibility is no longer a nice-to-have luxury. It has become a fundamental requirement for staying in the workforce, especially after Covid.

Reports – from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, professional services firm Aon and UNSW – indicate while a substantial number of workers prioritise flexibility, many of their requests are still being declined.

This leaves many employees with a stark choice: either conform to standard, rigid office hours or look for better conditions elsewhere.

The stakes of these negotiations are remarkably high. For the employee, a successful deal can mean the difference between professional growth and total burnout. For the employer, it is a major lever for retaining top talent.

Yet, many employees approach these conversations as simple "asks", unaware that the success of their requests often hinge on invisible factors that have little to do with their actual job performance.

In our new research, published in the Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology, we wanted to provide an evidence base for how to negotiate for flexible work, so both employers and employees can benefit.

Request for approval

To understand why some flexible work requests are approved and others are rejected, we ran two studies with more than 300 participants.

Instead of asking people what they think influences flexible work approvals, we asked them to make real decisions on a series of requests presented to them.

To strengthen our findings, all participants had management experience.

In both studies, participants read short requests from hypothetical employees asking to work flexibly.

Each request was designed to look realistic, but was given a focus on one of four different things:

- caring responsibilities
- improved productivity
- greater wellbeing via work-life integration
- task completion instead of hours worked.
- In the second study, we varied both the gender of the requester and how much flexibility they asked for: either two or four days working from home.

What we found

Across both studies, a clear pattern emerged. Requests related to caring responsibilities and improved productivity had the greatest success. Requests which focused on improved personal wellbeing or greater autonomy over their time were less successful.

However, contrary to what we expected, we found men and women were equally likely to be approved for flexible work.

This suggests that, at least at the approval stage, "gendered flexibility stigma", or bias against workers (usually women) who access flexible work arrangements, may be less pronounced than earlier research has suggested.

Overall, we found managers have a clear preference for fewer days of flexible working. Requests for two days of flexible work were much more likely to be approved than requests for four days.

Some good news for parents

Remote work, normalised in the pandemic, allowed fathers to become more engaged in caring.

Our results indicate fathers won't be penalised for asking for flexible work to provide care to their children. However, there's an important caveat. While their requests were just as likely as women's to be approved, our research cannot speak to the impact on men's (or any workers') careers after they take up flexible work.

The stigma against those who cannot be seen in the office or workplace – a perceived lack of commitment, judgements about decreased productivity, reduced likelihood of getting promoted – may still be present.

Other ways to make a strong case

Flexible work debates often focus on and even favour parents. That can leave non-parents with fewer options. Our research provides good news for those without caring responsibilities who still want to embrace the benefits of flexible work.

We found the business case was equally as effective as the child-care argument. Non-carers should strongly consider the mutual benefits to their employers and to themselves and be sure to make a strong case for how the company will reap the rewards.

For example, workers could highlight the possibility for increased productivity or fewer sick days.

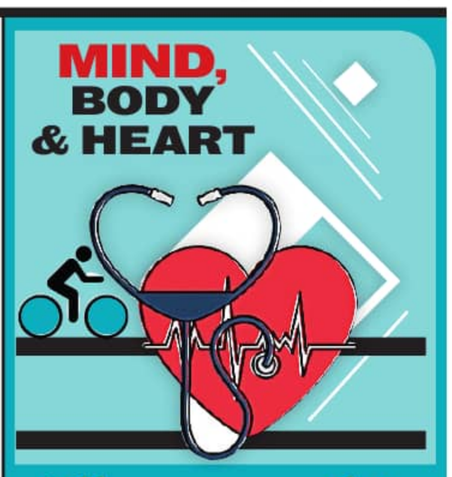
Room to make things fairer

Together, our findings show that flexible work is still not doled out fairly. Because these negotiations often occur on a one-on-one basis, they are highly susceptible to individual bias, favouritism, and assumptions about who deserves to work flexibly.

One factor outside an employee's control is their manager's attitude. Our research found managers who held positive views about flexible work were more likely to approve requests of any kind. Those with negative attitudes were more likely to say no, regardless of how the request was framed.

Ultimately, success depends on how the request is framed, how much flexibility is asked for, and who is making the decision.

(By Melissa A Wheeler, Asanka Gunasekara, RMIT University, Lindsie Arthur, The University of Melbourne, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

How to beat SAD

1. Soak up natural light
One of the simplest yet most effective ways to manage Seasonal Affective Disorder is by increasing your exposure to natural light. Shorter days and gloomy weather can disrupt your body clock, affecting mood, sleep, and energy levels. Spending time near windows, stepping out for a short morning walk or even rearranging your workspace closer to daylight can make a noticeable difference. Natural light helps regulate serotonin and melatonin levels, which play a key role in emotional balance.

2. Create gentle daily routines
SAD often feels heavier when days blur together, which is why having simple, predictable routines can be grounding. Waking up and going to bed at the same time, eating meals mindfully and setting aside moments for movement or relaxation can help the mind feel more anchored. These routines don't need to be rigid or overwhelming which is just consistent enough to provide rhythm during darker months.

3. Thoughtful nutrition
What you eat can quietly influence how you feel, especially during seasonal mood changes. Nutrient-dense foods support brain chemistry, hormone balance and sustained energy, all of which matter when managing SAD.

4. Build small moments of movement
You don't need intense workouts to feel better during SAD prone months. Gentle movement like stretching, yoga, slow walks or light home workouts can boost endorphins and reduce mental fog. Movement also improves circulation and sleep quality, both of which are commonly affected by seasonal mood shifts.

5. Stay socially connected
Isolation can deepen the effects of SAD, which is why staying connected on your own terms is essential. This doesn't mean constant socialising; even low-effort interactions like voice notes, short walks with a friend or shared creative activities can help. —Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

New noninvasive imaging tech to scan skin, signal risk of heart disease

A team of German researchers has developed a new imaging technology that can noninvasively scan your skin and also reveal early signs of cardiovascular risk.

Fast-RSOM skin scan can detect tiny changes in blood vessels, oxygen levels, and tissue composition that are invisible to traditional imaging.

It can capture detailed images of the smallest blood vessels directly through the skin -- and detect tiny changes in their ability to expand and contract, known as microvascular endothelial dysfunction (MiVED).

Until now, doctors had no precise and noninvasive way to see or measure these early changes in humans.

According to the team from the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, by revealing early signs of heart disease risk, the technology could help doctors intervene sooner, guide personalised therapies, and improve long-term heart health.

"With fast-RSOM, we can, for the first time, noninvasively assess endothelial dysfunction at single-capillary and skin-layer resolution in humans," said Dr. Hailong He, researcher at the Institute of Biological and Medical Imaging at Helmholtz Munich.

"Our novel approach offers an unprecedented view of how cardiovascular disease manifests at the microvascular level," added Dr. Angelos Karlas, co-first author, vascular surgeon, and senior research scientist at Technical University of Munich (TUM) University Hospital. —IANS

Athiya as cheerleader

Border 2' has reached theatres, and the buzz is high. The film brings back memories of the 1997 classic 'Border'. Athiya Shetty has now shared her support for producer Nidhi Dutta.

Just before the release, writer and producer Dutta shared a personal post on Instagram. She posted a throwback picture from the sets of Border (1997). In her message she spoke about dreams, memories, and how that one moment on set changed her life.

Nidhi wrote, "This picture is from the sets of Border (1997)... A young girl who clearly must have seen a dream through that lens that day & it put her on a path to a journey that will reach its destination tomorrow... The dream however couldn't have been possible without certain people... First and foremost my husband and partner for everything in life... Binoy thank you for being the first person to hear my narration and for telling me I had a great script to hold my hand through it all..."

Among those touched by Nidhi's post was Athiya Shetty. On the film's release day Athiya reposted Nidhi's message on her Instagram story. She added a note. Athiya wrote, "The little girl that never stopped dreaming. Sitara will be so proud. Go Mama." This simple message caught a lot of attention online. Many felt it showed how special this film is for Dutta and it is not just as a producer but as the daughter of JP Dutta who made the original 'Border'. **— ETimes**

Biggest lesson learnt

Rashmika excited about upcoming film and feeling blessed with learnings of last year

Rashmika Mandanna who will be soon seen in Cocktail 2, calls the film "super special" and hints that her character will bring "a whole new energy" to the story. "Cocktail 2 is super special! I can't reveal too much yet, but my character brings a whole new energy to the story. I am very excited for everyone to see what we have next in line," she tells Mirror.

Talking about her journey over the past year, Rashmika said working across languages and industries has been a major learning curve. "This past year has honestly been such a blessing... Working across languages, meeting new people, and playing so many different characters has taught me so much. The biggest lesson I've learned is to just stay grounded and keep growing. Every set, every role, every language comes with something new to learn. And no matter how busy things get, I've realized it's so important to stay true to who you are and enjoy the journey along the way," she ends.

Earlier in an interview, she spoke to us about how she has the pressure to replicate success from her back to back hits. She told us, "Of course, there's always a hope that the momentum never stops. That's what we all work so hard for, not just me, but every single person who contributes to a project. The dedication, effort, and heart that go into each piece is immense, and the goal is always to create something that resonates deeply with the audience."

—Vinay MRR Mishra, Mumbai Mirror

Vishal: 'Being shortlisted itself feels extraordinary'

As "Homebound" failed to make it to the Oscars, actor Vishal Jethwa said that the film's journey remains extraordinary for him and added that being shortlisted among the final 15 films from 86 entries was itself a deeply humbling experience, especially given his modest beginnings.

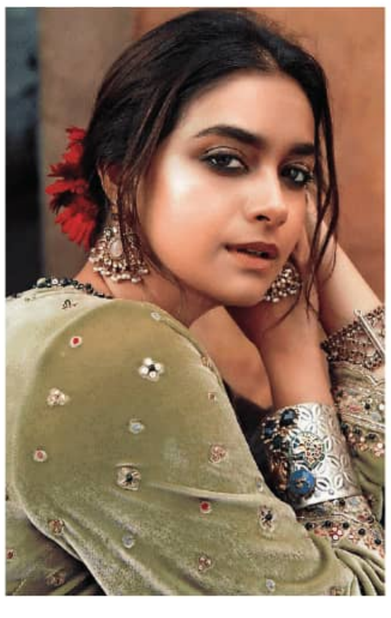
Vishal told IANS: "While we didn't make it to the final nominations, being shortlisted among the final 15 films from 86 entries itself has been deeply humbling for me.

I come from a very modest, local space, where dreams often feel distant, so to see Homebound travel this far and represent India on a global platform already feels extraordinary."

The actor said that this journey has strengthened his belief in honest storytelling and in cinema that comes from the heart. "Every step of this process has been a reminder of how far belief, perseverance, and sincerity can take you..."

The five films that made it to the final Oscar shortlist are The Secret Agent (Brazil), It Was Just an Accident (France), Sentimental Value (Norway), Sirât (Spain), and The Voice of Hind Rajab (Tunisia). —IANS

Keerthy shares 9-hour dubbing day studio snap; fans thrilled



National Award-winning actress Keerthy Suresh has shared a behind-the-scenes glimpse from her dubbing session for an upcoming project and disclosed that she had been dubbing for nine hours in the day. Sharing a picture of herself in the dubbing studio on her Instagram stories section, she wrote, "Me at the end of a nine-hour long dubbing day. #AboutYesterday."

The post, her fans feel, underscores her unwavering dedication to multilingual cinema, where she personally dubs in Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam to infuse authenticity into her roles. In fact, her dubbing added emotional depth to both the Tamil and Telugu versions of her film 'Mahanati'.

In 'Kalki 2898 AD', she voiced the AI character Bujji across five languages -- Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, and English, earning widespread acclaim. Bujji's humorous and emotional tones caught the attention of audiences, proving her versatility as a voice artiste. **—IANS**

Right into the heart of real issues

Director Jadesh Kumar Hampi, famed for writing the script of the hit movie Katera, deserves appreciation for this movie set more than four decades ago in the Kolar region. The director, who has also written the script and screenplay, has retained the Kolar dialect and shown the living standards of the downtrodden. The movie explores the hunger of the downtrodden to own a piece of agricultural land and hurdles created by landlords, who used to rule the roost.

LANDLORD
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Jadesh Kumar Hampi
- **ACTORS** Duniya Vijay, Rachita Ram, Raj B Shetty, Bhavana Rao, Rithnya Vijay, Umashree, Sharath Lohitashwa
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 156 minutes

The specialty of the movie is its apt cast, crispy screenplay, punchy and meaningful dialogues. The movie has some scenes that are loaded with emotions. The scenes include a girl from a lower caste feeling content after being able to touch an idol of a Goddess. The other scene is where a mother is compelled to perform a widow ritual for her daughter. Another scene is where a visually-challenged girl touches the body of her father.

The movie begins with people from a lower caste community waiting in front of a landlord's house. They want to wash the clothes of the landlord who was killed by his enemy. At this juncture, Sanna Dani (Rajesh B Shetty) enters the scene. He brings his late father's clothes and declares himself as his father's successor. He is ruthless to those who want to own a piece of land or assert their rights. Bhagya (Rithnya Vijay) works as a police constable. Bhagya is the daughter of Rachayya (Duniya Vijay) and Ningavva (Rachita Ram).Watch the movie to know what happens to Bhagya and what is the background of Rachayya.

Though the movie consists of a lot of action scenes, it conveys a message on the importance of education and the value of our Constitution. Duniya Vijay walks away with all honours for his sterling performance. Vijay's commanding presence is a treat. Rithnya Vijay has proved her mettle. Rachita Ram is convincing. Rajesh B Shetty appears in a completely different avatar. Veteran actress Umashree has entered into the skin of a hapless woman's character whose dream is to own a piece of land. The movie is worth a watch. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

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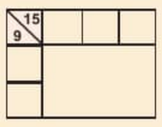
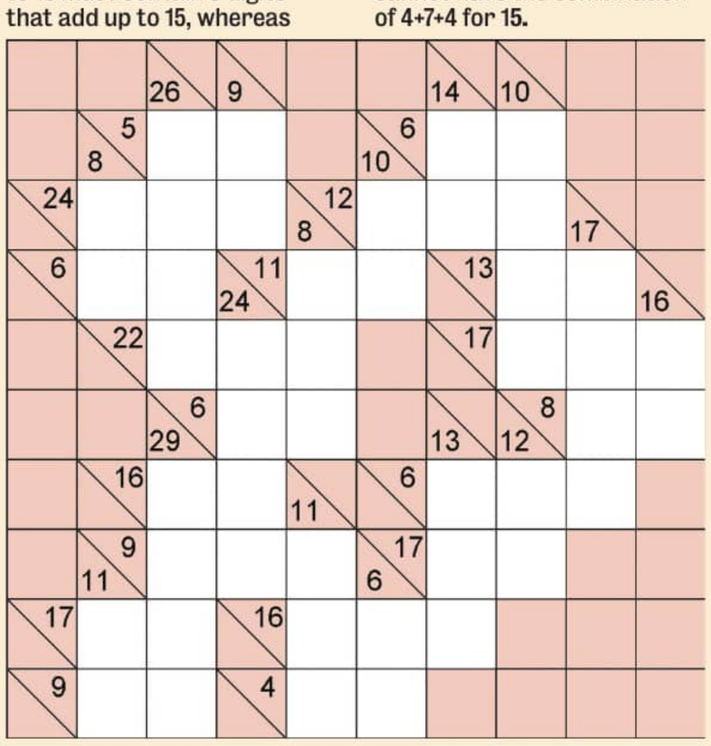
Kakuro

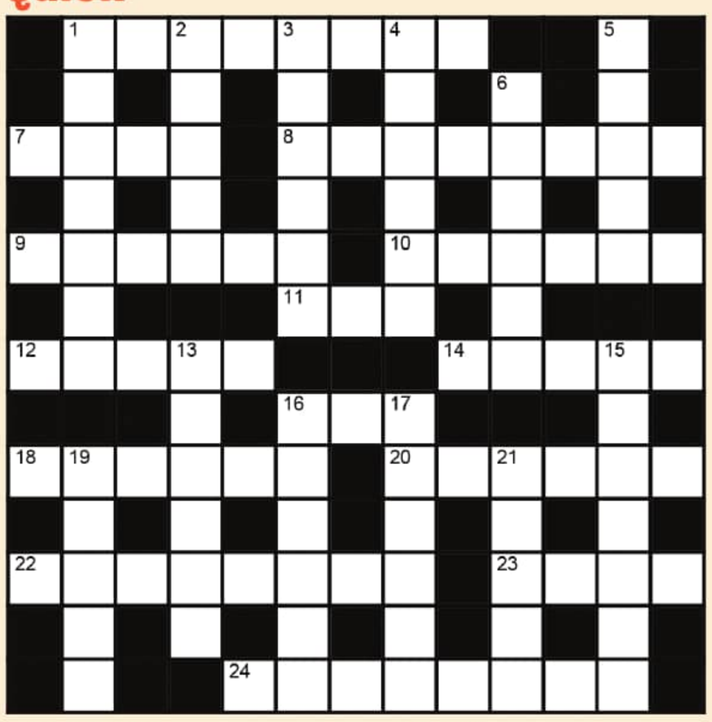
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Exacts revenge (4,4)
7 Alright (4)
8 Still sealed (8)
9 Enthusiastic (6)
10 Surplus (6)
11 Aliens? (3)
12 Sepals collectively (5)
14 Romantic poet (5)
16 Sharp bark (3)
18 Man of La ___ (6)
20 Scoundrels (6)
22 Errors (8)
23 Pore over (4)
24 Taking it easy is the only medicine here? (4,4)

DOWN

1 Temple town in Uttara Kannada (7)
2 A culinary herb (5)
3 Liken to (6)
4 Runs away to marry (6)
5 Turns away (5)
6 Irritable (US) (6)
13 Sailing boats (6)
15 Barred as born a year or two too soon? (7)
16 American colloquially speaking? (6)
17 Fix beforehand (6)
19 Sign of the Zodiac (5)
21 Renowned percussionist Trilok ____ (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS G

HSDPIR HNEPXCBAY DPHBWPH BA XCBH CPQDX XCQX BH ANX JPDBHCQUIP–QAW IBMP BH ENDP XCQA Q WDPQE.

Linemaro

You must be a keyboard because you are just my type

Mindchow

A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a woman perfected without trials

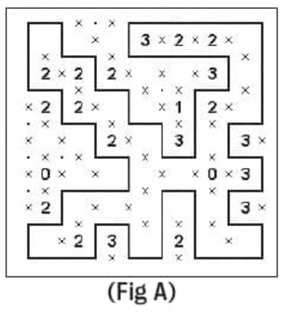
Joke of the day

Sign on a packet in a Chinese store: CAUTION – Blade Extremely Sharp! Keep Out of Children

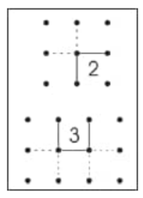
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

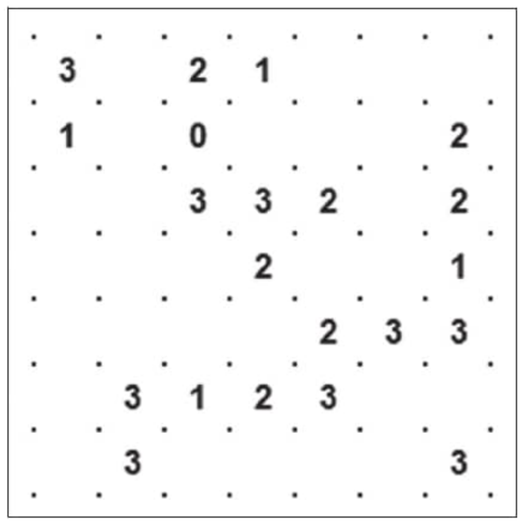


(Fig B) Not Allowed

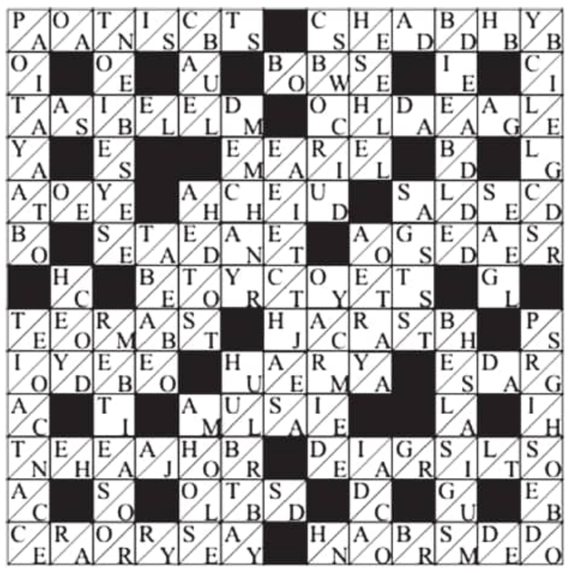
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



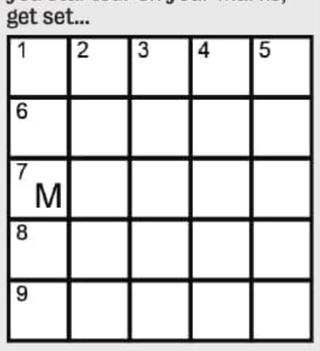
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 To ACC; 6 OO Vol; 7 Rimed; 8 Ratan; 9 Kyle a

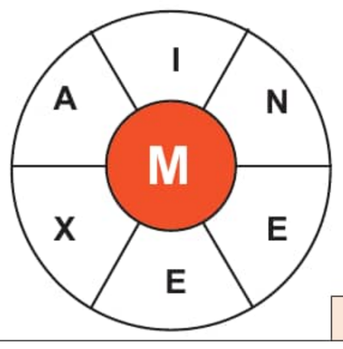
DOWN

1 Cal mo; 2 Envoi; 3 A taro; 4 Reck L; 5 Toady

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4								9
5		7		6		8		1
		6	1		2	7		
	6		3		5		2	
		9				4		
	7		2		4		1	
		8	9		3	5		
9		1		2		3		4
7								6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 23

3 6 6 8

Medium

= 8

1 5 6 8

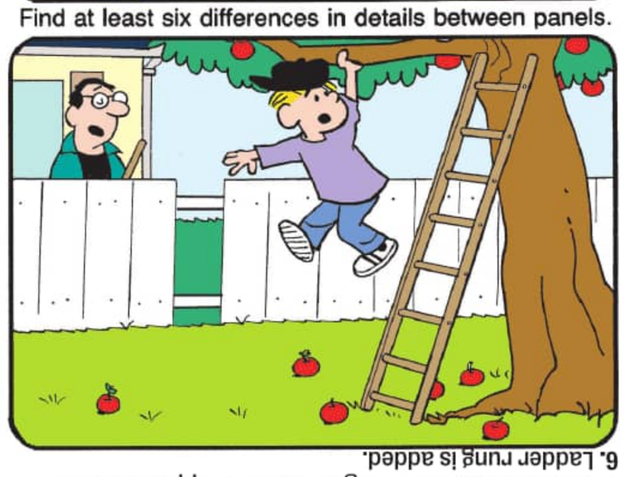
Hard

= 3

4 4 5 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



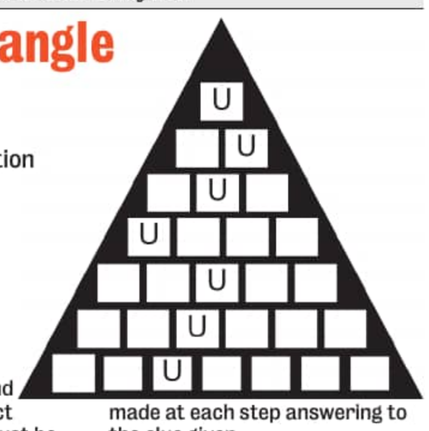
Differences: 1. Arm is raised. 2. Window is smaller. 3. Sleeve is shorter. 4. Leg is moved. 5. Apple is moved. 6. Ladder rung is added.

Riddler

Once upon a time there was a dad and 3 kids. When the kids were adults, the dad was old and Death came to take the dad. The first son, who became a lawyer, begged Death to let the dad live a few more years. Death agreed. When Death came back, the second son, who became a doctor begged Death to let his father live a few more days. Death agreed. When Death came back the third son, who became a priest, begged Death to let the dad live till that candle wick burned out and he pointed to a candle. Death agreed. The third son knew Death wouldn't come back, and he didn't. Why not?

Alpha triangle

1 21st letter
2 Et Brute
3 Crazy person
4 Proverb preposition
5 Enumerate
6 Red-billed bird
7 Care

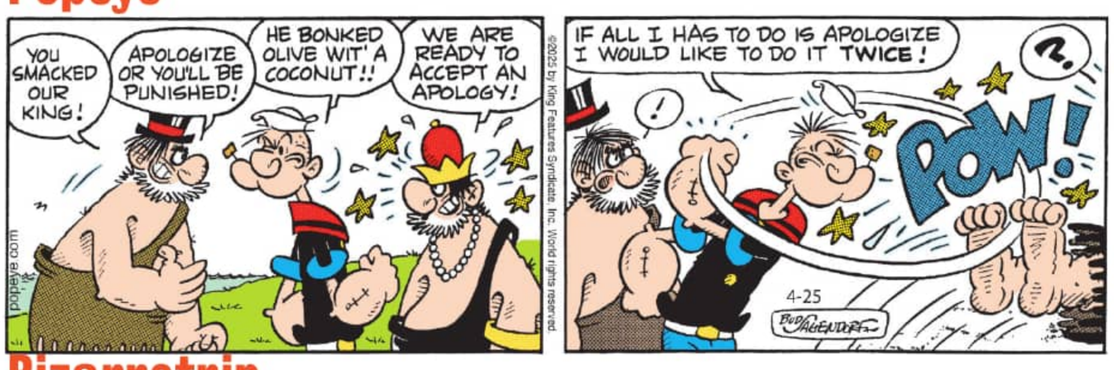


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


YOU SMACKED OUR KING!
APOLOGIZE OR YOU'LL BE PUNISHED!
HE BONKED OLIVE WIT' A COCONUT!!
WE ARE READY TO ACCEPT AN APOLOGY!
IF ALL I HAS TO DO IS APOLOGIZE I WOULD LIKE TO DO IT TWICE!
?
!
POW!
4-25
BUD SAGENDORF
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

Dist. by King Features
"What is the meaning of life?" I was just about to ask you.
Wayno & Piraro 10-15-25
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS
BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

KNOCK KNOCK
HI! I'M ALYSSA, AND I WANT MY OLDER SISTER TO TAKE ME TRICK-OR-TREATING.
BUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD ORDINANCE SAYS YOU CAN'T GO OUT IN COSTUME IF YOU'RE 12 OR OLDER!
WELL, THAT'S STUPID. OLD MAN LES DRESSES AS A WIZARD AND YELLS AT CARS ALL NIGHT, AND THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT TRICK-OR-TREATERS? WHERE DO I SIGN?
MAYBE WE SHOULD ASK OLD MAN LES TO SIGN OUR PETITION!
LET'S SAVE THAT ONE FOR MOM.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

WHY IS WHAT THE DEER DO TO THE TREE TRUNKS WITH THEIR ANTLERS CALLED BUCK RUB?
IT'S EASY TO FIGURE OUT IF YOU JUST TAKE A SECOND TO THINK ABOUT IT...
HAVING TO REPLACE TREES ALL OF THE TIME COSTS A LOT OF BUCKS!
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10-15
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

A SILLY HAT AND A CAT TOY WAND DOES NOT MAKE YOU A WIZARD!
YESH! THAT'S WHY I HAVE MY MAGIC BOOK OF SHPELLS!
A DICTION-ARY
?!
WITH THIS I CAN SHPELL ANYTHING!!!
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10-15

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

This is a year to focus on building your material foundation and simplifying your life. Practical efforts to increase your income or secure your assets will be highly successful. Trust your innate strength and focus on tangible, reliable steps. This dedication to security ultimately grants you greater personal freedom and peace of mind.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Clear communication brings understanding today. Emotional awareness helps you stay centred. Accept support from others and maintain grace during conversations.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Mindful spending strengthens long-term stability. Choosing simple joys supports comfort and ease. Free activities bring relaxation. Confidence grows as you prioritise financial wisdom and create positive habits.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Practical choices enhance financial well-being today. Simple alternatives keep you balanced. Comfort comes from meaningful moments rather than material things. Appreciation for what you have strengthens your confidence.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Adapting traditions with openness strengthens harmony. Fresh ideas bring unity and refreshing perspectives. Creative collaboration deepens connection. New contributions inspire enthusiasm.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Love feels exciting when approached with balance. Gentle creativity enhances connection without overwhelming your partner. Meaningful gestures create warmth.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Innovative thinking inspires you today. Creative ideas delight family conversations. Professional circles benefit from measured suggestions. Share thoughtfully to build positive impressions. Inspiration flows as you blend originality with practical awareness.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Big visions thrive when paired with gentle planning. Break ideas into manageable steps. Practical organisation supports progress. Your dedication transforms dreams into achievements with patience and steady focus.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Recognition arrives through your consistent dedication. Appreciation uplifts your confidence. Stay humble while celebrating progress. Collaboration strengthens achievements and highlights shared effort.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Positive change feels inspiring today. Courage supports new beginnings. Evaluate risks with care. Trust your instincts and choose balanced steps. Personal growth blossoms as you welcome fresh possibilities.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Setting boundaries protects your peace. Kindly expressing needs strengthens relationships. Supportive connections respect your space. Emotional balance improves as you prioritise comfort and clear communication.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

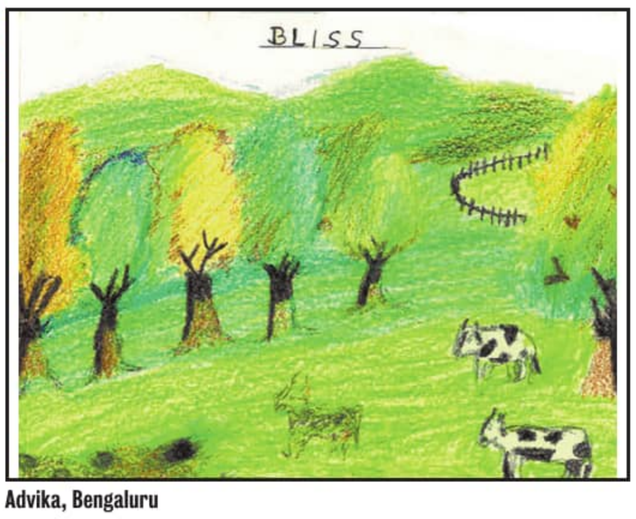
Busy energy sparks productivity. Professional opportunities unfold through bold action. Networking enhances visibility and supports goals. Focus and determination bring meaningful results and open new doors today.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Balanced optimism guides your decisions. Awareness strengthens planning. Considering outcomes ensures confidence. Thoughtful preparation helps you stay grounded.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Advika, Bengaluru

Padma, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$=[.001^{(4/3)^3} * .1^{(-4/3)}]^3$
$=(10^{-3})^4 * (10^{-1})^{-4}$
$=(10^{-12}) * (10^4) = 10^{-8}$

BULL'S EYE

amen, enema, exam, EXAMINE, main, mane, mean, men, mine, minx, name

QUOTE UNCODE

Surely something resides in this heart that is not perishable – and life is more than a dream.

FAST FIVE

C	O	A	C	T
O	V	O	L	O
M	I	R	E	D
A	N	T	R	A
L	E	A	K	Y

STRIKE OUT

P	A	N	I	C	S		S	H	A	H	A	B	B	Y
O		O		U		O	W	E		E		I		
T	A	I	L	E	D		O	L	D	A	G	E		
A		S			E	A	R	L		D		L		
T	O	E		A	C	I	D		S	L	E	D		
O		S	A	D	A	T		O	G	E	E	S		
	C		B	O	Y	C	O	T		L				
T	O	M	B	S		H	A	R	S	H		P		
I	D	E		H	E	R	A		E	A	R			
C		T	M	U	S	E		L		I				
T	H	E	J	O	B		D	I	G	I	T	S		
A		O		L		B	S		D		U		E	
C	A	R	R	E	Y		H	A	R	M	E	D		

QUICK

						S		R	E	S	T	C	U	R
						E				E		T		G
M	I	S	T	A	K	E	S		R	E	A	D		
		R		H			N		E		R		U	
M	A	N	C	H	A		R	O	G	U	E	S		
		A		Y	A	P						V		
C	A	L	Y	X			B	Y	R	O	N			
		N			E	T	S		H					
A	R	D	E	N	T		E	X	C	E	S	S		
O	K	A	Y		U	N	O	P	E	N	E	D		
G	E	T	S	E	V	E	N		T		E			
O		H		Q		L				T		E		
G	E	T	S	E	V	E	N		T		E			

MENSA PUZZLE

4. In each column of three the numbers add up to 16.

RIDDLER

The third son went over and blew out the candle after Death left because the son said "till the candle wick burns out", not "till the candle burns out".

SUDOKU

4	1	3	8	5	7	2	6	9
5	2	7	4	6	9	8	3	1
8	9	6	1	3	2	7	4	5
1	6	4	3	8	5	9	2	7
2	8	9	6	7	1	4	5	3
3	7	5	2	9	4	6	1	8
6	4	8	9	1	3	5	7	2
9	5	1	7	2	6	3	8	4
7	3	2	5	4	8	1	9	6

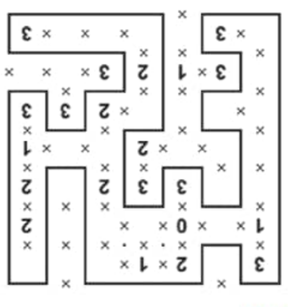
ALPHA TRIANGLE

U, Tu, Nut, Unto, Count, Toucan, Caution.

GO FIGURE

Easy
6 + 6 + 3 + 8 = 23
Medium
6 − 5 − 1 + 8 = 8
Hard
4 / 4 + 7 − 5 = 3

LOOP



KAKURO

Volume No 19, Issue No 004 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore–560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon–responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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25% OFF

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Cashback Up to	₹2,200*
Exchange Value Up to	₹2,000*
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Savings Up to	₹3,109*
Exchange Value Up to	₹3,000*
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